

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 0072, 0107

1. THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION RELEASED A JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON JANUARY 24, FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALTA BY MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN ON JANUARY 21-22.

2. BEGIN TEXT: AT THE INVITATION OF H.E. MR. DOM MINTOFF, PRIME MINISTER OF MALTA, H.E. MR. AHMED OSMAN. PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTERS AND HIGH OFFICIALS PAID AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO MALTA ON THE 21 ST AND 22ND JANUARY, 1976.

THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION WERE RECEIVED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA, SIR ANTHONY MAMO. TWO TELE-A-TETE MEETINGS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS. OTHER MEETINGS WERE HELD BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE MOROCCAN DELEGATION AND MALTESE MINISTERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

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THE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN WAS REVIEWED AND WAYS AND MEANS WERE DISCUSSED FOR COLLABORATION WHICH COULD LEAD TO A PERMANENT PEACE IN THE REGION. BOTH GOVERNMENTS SHARED A COMMON ASPIRATION AND GREAT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING.

THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS AGREED TO WORK TOGETHER TO TURN THE MEDITERRANEAN INTO A ZONE OF PEACE, STABILITY AND PROSPERITY WHICH WOULD SERVE AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR FRUITFUL EXCHANGES AND COOPERATION, THEREBY ELIMINATING THE SOURCES OF TENSION WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN THE REGION AND THE DANGERS THAT THREATEN IT.

REGARDING THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS REAFFIRMED THEIR CONVICTION THAT A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE REGION CANNOT BE ESTABLISHED WITHOUT THE RETURN OF THE ARAB STATES OF ALL THEIR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE RESTORATION OF THE NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. TO THIS EFFECT THEY RECORDED THEIR SATISFACTION AT THE SUCCESS ACHIEVED BY THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, PARTICULARLY AT THE RECENT DEBATE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE HAVE LED TO THE STRENGTHENING OF THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS ALSO CONCLUDED AGREEMENTS CONCERNING COMMERCIAL, ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION AND THE ABOLITION OF VISAS.

THE MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER, H.E. MR. AHMED OSMAN EXPRESSED HIS INTEREST IN AND KEEN APPRECIATION OF THE MALTA GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TOWARDS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE EXTENDED THE SINCERE THANKS FOR THE WARM AND FRIENDLY WELCOME WHICH WAS GIVEN TO HIM AND TO HIS DELEGATION. END TEXT.

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3. COMMENT: THE REFERENCES IN THE COMMUNIQUE TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION ARE CONSISTENT WITH OFFICIAL MALTESE POLICY ON THIS SUBJECT. HOWEVER, IT HAS ALREADY BEEN NOTED BY THE LOCAL PRESS THAT ONLY LAST DECEMBER (DURING A STATE VISIT BY ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE), A MALTESE/ITALIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED AS WELL AS RECOGNITION OF "THE RIGHT OF ALL STATES IN THE AREA TO EXIST WITHIN

SECURE AND RECOGNIZED FRONTIERS." MALTA'S PREVIOUS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS PRO-ISRAELI FORMULA IS
CONSPICUOUSLY ABSENT FROM THE MALTESE/MOROCCAN
COMMUNIQUE. SMITH

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